the development and promotion of tourism sector in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total number of projects proposed to be sanctioned for the same in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the Tenth Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis. The circuit identified for N.E. Region is as follows:—

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

In addition to this, it is proposed to identify one major tourist destination in each State/Union Territory including Arunachal Pradesh for overall development.

Promotion of tourism

†2814. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to extend full protection to tourism whereas it is the biggest source to earn the foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether any ambitious scheme has been formulated by Government to promote tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to give the status of industry to the hotel trade; and

(e) if so, by when the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No. Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following plans to promote tourism in the country:—

1. Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity

2. Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination

3. Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements

4. Creation of world class infrastructure

5. Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes

6. Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism and

7. Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Tourism development plan for Hampi

2815. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have been requested by the Government of Karnataka to approve the short term tourism development plan for Hampi involving a Central share of Rs. 16.96 crores; and

(b) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (d) Under the Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development Scheme as envisaged in the Tenth Five Year Plan, Hampi has been identified as a destination development project in Karnataka during the year 2002-2003. Housing & Urban Development Corporation has been engaged to prepare the Master Plan for the said project. The project is being planned in consultation with the Government of Karnataka.